



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

SEPTEMBER 15, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO MEXICAN MEN SENTENCED FOR SMUGGLING ILLEGAL ALIENS DISCOVERED IN RAYTOWN

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that two Mexican men have been sentenced in federal court for smuggling two van-loads of illegal aliens who were discovered at a Raytown, Mo., residence.

Francisco Figueroa-Salas, 36, a citizen of Mexico who illegally entered the United States, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey this morning to one year and three months in federal prison without parole. **Manuel Figueroa-Salas**, 27, also a citizen of Mexico who illegally entered the United States, was sentenced on Wednesday to one year and one day in federal prison without parole.

On May 6, 2005, **Francisco** and **Manuel Figueroa-Salas** each pleaded guilty to charges contained in an April 19, 2005, federal indictment.

Francisco Figueroa-Salas admitted that he agreed to drive a van carrying six individuals who were in the United States illegally. There were two individuals heading to the Columbus, Ohio, area who had paid \$600. Two other individuals were heading to the Dallas, Texas, area and had paid \$600. The last two individuals were a couple that had paid \$1,000 each to travel to the Atlanta, Ga., area.

Manuel Figueroa-Salas admitted that he picked up 11 illegal aliens who had crossed the border on foot from Mexico into the desert and transported them to Denver, Colo., where they met another van driven by **Francisco Figueroa-Salas**, who was also transporting illegal aliens. The two vans then traveled together to Raytown, where a friend had agreed to let them and the group of illegal aliens stay overnight at his residence at 5929 Crescent.

Francisco Figueroa-Salas also pleaded guilty to illegally re-entering the United States

after being deported on Sept. 30, 2003. **Francisco Figueroa-Salas** was found illegally in the United States and ordered removed on four occasions in June and August 2003.

Francisco Figueroa-Salas also admitted that he had transported illegal aliens on two other occasions. Less than a month earlier, he said, he had transported six other individuals from Phoenix, Ariz., to Kansas City, Mo.

Manuel Figueroa-Salas also admitted that he had transported 10 illegal aliens from Phoenix, Ariz., to New York and North Carolina. Upon his return to Phoenix, he picked up the load of illegal aliens for which he was indicted and sentenced yesterday.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sheryle L. Jeans. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow